

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4699
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2000
THEFT OF IDOLS
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether incidents of theft of idols from the temples in the country are increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have made any efforts or propose to make any efforts to stop such incidents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) & (b): Available information regarding theft of idols during the last years is enclosed

(Annexure).

(c)to(e): `Public Order` and `Police` being State subjects, the registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, insofar as the theft of idols from the centrally protected monuments/museums under its control is concerned, the Archaeological Survey of India, in concert with the law enforcing agencies, has taken measures to check the theft of idols by intensifying checking at custom exit points as well as by strict enforcement of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972. In addition to this, armed guards have been deployed at the selected centrally protected monuments/museums.